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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Note verbale dated 27 June 2006 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and has the honour to forward herewith the following first national report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on "Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction":

"First national report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

"Bangladesh supports Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery. Bangladesh neither develops, acquires, manufactures, possesses, transports, transfers or uses nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, their means of delivery, nor provides any form of support to the non-state actors that attempt to do so. In the export policy of 2003-2006 of Bangladesh, firearms, ammunitions and ingredients thereof have been included in the list of items prohibited for export. Furthermore, Bangladesh has no intention of acquiring such weapons of mass destruction in the future. Bangladesh is, however, of the view that there should be appropriate provision for the legitimate right to pursue nuclear, biological or chemical technology for peaceful purposes, within given safeguards.

"Bangladesh's commitment to disarmament, both nuclear and conventional, flows from her constitutional obligations to the goal of general and complete disarmament. Bangladesh considers the elimination of nuclear weapons to be the highest priority in the disarmament context. Bangladesh is, therefore, concerned that any increase in the number of nuclear weapon States will not only have serious implications for international peace and security but also for development.

"In keeping with these principles, Bangladesh has become party to all major disarmament treaties/conventions covering nuclear, chemical, biological and conventional weapons, often taking a leading role in the South Asia region.

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Bangladesh was the first country in South Asia to have signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Bangladesh was also the first South Asian country to sign and ratify the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

"Bangladesh is also a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and ratified the Convention for the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxic Weapons. It also ratified the four protocols to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, which ban an entire range of inhumane weapons. Bangladesh has been acclaimed for its pioneering role in South Asia through its accession to core disarmament treaties and its support for initiatives towards making South Asia a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

"In conformity with Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), Bangladesh has already finalized draft national legislation for the chemical weapons convention in order to implement it in the country, which is now under active consideration of the Cabinet. In addition, as part of its treaty obligation under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction Bangladesh launched a process of destroying stockpiled anti-personnel mines in early November 2004 with a view to completing the destruction of the stockpile by the March 2005 deadline. Bangladesh is also in the process of drafting national legislation for the Mine-Ban Convention."